Rise in prices of pulses

*53. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken cognizance of rise in prices of pulses during the recent months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of movement of prices of pulses during the current year and the comparative prices of pulses during the last three years;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to assuage the price-rise of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of movement of prices of pulses during the current year and during the last three years aregiven balow:

Annual average retail prices of Pulses during 2003—2006

Gram Dal

(Rs. Per kg)

	2003	2004	2005	2006(upto20.11.06)
North Zone	22.15	21.91	23.74	32.49
West Zone	21.71	19.94	21.59	30.91
EastZone	22.93	21.86	23.40	30.44
South Zone	24.88	23.89	26.01	34.67
All-India	22.94	21.90	23.65	31.91

Tur/Arhar Dal

(Rs. Per kg)

	2003	2004	2005	2006(upto20.'
North Zone	28.65	32.03	31.41	33.60
West Zone	25.24	28.40	28.47	30.09
East Zone	27.40	30.32	29.51	30.87
South Zone	31.00	33.78	32.24	33.24
All-India	27.94	30.96	30.20	31.68

The maximum wholesale prices of Urad (whole) and Moong (whole) for Delhi for November2006(upto 15.11.2006) and the corresponding period during the last three years*are given below:

. (Rs. Per Kg)

Year	Urad	Moong
2003	14.40	15.30
2004	18.75	19.50
2005	27.00	26.25
2006 (upto 15.11.2006)	36.00	35.00

(c) The reasons for rise in prices of pulses are shortfall in domestic supplies relative to demand and hardening of international prices.

(d) Government has already taken steps to check the increase in prices of pulses by taking measures for augmenting overall supply through permitting imports at zero duty and ban on exports of pulses.

Imbalance in agricultural cost inputs and outputs

*54. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the concrete steps Governemnt propse to take in view of crash in prices of agricultural output and rise in cost of agricultural input which have adversely affected the interest of all sections among the peasantry?